

THE EUGENICS SOCIETY

THE Annual General Meeting was held at 69 Eccleston Square, S.W.1, on Tuesday, May 28th, 1940, at 5 p.m., with the President, Lord Horder, in the Chair.

MINUTES. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, May 16th, 1939, which were contained in the Annual Report, included in the April issue of the *EUGENICS REVIEW*, and had therefore been circulated to all Fellows and Members of the *Society*, were taken as read and signed as correct.

ANNUAL REPORT. The Chairman presented the Annual Report, the adoption of which was proposed by Mr. Bramwell, seconded by Mr. Binney and carried unanimously.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET. The Honorary Treasurer presented the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended December 31st, 1939. These were unanimously adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1940-1. The following Resolution, passed by the members of the Emergency Committee at their meeting held on April 2nd, 1940, was read by the President :

" Since it appears to this meeting that it is undesirable in present circumstances to have elections of members of Council, it is hereby resolved that the procedure

be modified during the current year by the suspension of the annual election of members of Council and that those members of Council who have consented shall remain in office without further election for that period with the powers vested in them."

It was therefore agreed that the Honorary Officers and Council should remain as appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on May 16th, 1939, with two exceptions: 1. Owing to the resignation of Professor Ryle there would be now only five Vice-Presidents instead of the usual six. 2. The resignation of Sir Mark Grant Sturgis from the Council; this was received and accepted last September, to take effect in May.

The Emergency Committee for the ensuing year will consist of the following, with power to co-opt: The Lord Horder, Sir Charles Arden-Close, Mr. Binney, Mr. Bramwell, Mr. Chance, The Hon. Mrs. Grant Duff, Mr. Gun, Mrs. Hubback, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Martin, Mr. Titmuss.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR 1940-1. It was proposed by Mr. Binney, seconded by Mr. Gun, and carried unanimously, that the auditors of the *Society*, Messrs. West & Drake, be re-elected.

A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Binney, to Lord Horder for his work on behalf of the *Society* for the past year was carried unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORT 1940-41

In this Report, the accounts relate to the period December 31st, 1939, to December 31st, 1940. The rest of the Report covers the period from March 31st, 1940, to March 31st, 1941.

The war and the continued absence on active service of Dr. Blacker have made the work of the *Society* difficult during the past

year, but in spite of adverse conditions the Emergency Committee Meetings were regular and well attended. At the October Meeting, however, it was agreed that, in view of the situation arising out of the war, the work of the *Society* should be placed on a care and maintenance basis, and with great regret it was decided to dispense with the services of

Miss Pocock and Miss Dunn, leaving Mrs. Collyer in charge of the office.

Homes in Canada Service.—Several suggestions were made early in the year about the possible war-time activities of the *Society*, and when in June a cablegram was received from Dr. Hutton, President of the Eugenics Society of Canada, offering homes in Canada for the duration of the war to children selected by the *Eugenics Society* here, it was unanimously agreed that the offer presented an opportunity for useful work. A cablegram of grateful acceptance was despatched, and to deal with the work a committee was formed, consisting of Lord Horder, Mr. C. F. Chance (Chairman), Dr. A. J. Lewis, Mr. R. M. Titmuss and Miss Pocock (Secretary). Fellows and Members were notified of the scheme, and within a short time applications were received on behalf of 41 mothers and 266 children. It did not prove possible, however, to send more than a fraction of those who wished to go and for whom homes were prepared. Three parties consisting in all of 5 mothers and 23 children left between the beginning of August and the end of September. All arrived safely, and judging from their letters are very happy in their new homes. During the autumn shipping accommodation became increasingly difficult to obtain, but there was always a hope that the situation would improve after the winter, enabling the Committee to send the remainder of the applicants. Early in February 1941, however, a letter from Dr. Hutton informed us that the Government regulations and restrictions in Canada were so severe that the Eugenics Society of Canada could no longer carry on the work and was obliged to "retire from the field." This left us in a helpless position and, to our great disappointment and regret, we have had to do likewise. Dr. Hutton pointed out that, although the Canadian Society would be unable to receive and place any more children under the Homes in Canada Service, he and the Secretary, Judge Harkness, would keep in touch with us and continue to see that those already in Canada were well cared for.

Eugenics Society of Canada.—We very

much regret to learn that owing to circumstances entirely beyond their control the Eugenics Society of Canada no longer exists.

Darwin Research Fellowships.—Mr. Pear's Report on "Approach to Marriage" was duly received and submitted to Mr. Carr-Saunders and Mr. Titmuss, representing the Committee. It was agreed that no further action should be taken.

Problems of Population.—In the Annual Report of 1939-40 reference was made to Mr. Glass's book, which had then been completed but not published. The book has now appeared and has been very well received. Thus, taking into account Dr. Leybourne's book which appeared last year, two books of much importance have been published under the auspices of the Population Investigation Committee, as well as a considerable number of special investigations. It was mentioned in the last report that the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust had made a grant for the purpose of assisting an investigation into the problem of population and housing. During the present year Dr. Moshinsky has completed a memorandum on housing experiments in foreign countries, and Dr. L. Elsas has finished his part of an inquiry into the whole subject of the bearing of population changes on housing needs. It has been decided to postpone the second part of Dr. Elsas's investigation, and he has undertaken special war work in the meantime. The inquiry into the demographic problems of the British Colonial Empire is being continued by Dr. Kuczynski. It was hoped that the first part of Dr. Kuczynski's work would be finished during this year; but owing to the growing difficulty of obtaining access to libraries the work, though proceeding satisfactorily, has been delayed. The delay will not be of consequence; the object in aiming at publication in 1940 was to bring influence to bear upon the colonial censuses due to be taken in 1941. Since the taking of these censuses has been postponed, the fact that Dr. Kuczynski's work will appear later than planned is unimportant.

Population Policies Committee.—In 1940 it became clear that the Committee could not carry on its work, and by Easter all attempts

at further meetings were abandoned for the time being. Members of the Committee were absent or unable to attend meetings through pressure of war-time duties, and it was generally felt that it would be unwise to attempt to publish a Report on Population Policies in the midst of a war, especially since the Committee was not in a position to work on the drafts submitted to it by the Secretary. Mr. Lafitte has now become a full-time member of the staff of P.E.P., where he is working mainly on research into the social services. This work fits in closely with research on population policies.

It has been agreed that Mr. Lafitte should devote one or two days each week to population work, and gradually to issue outlines for the remaining chapters of the Report. Whenever the Committee is able to resume regular meetings, these outlines can be discussed. They can be edited and written up in the light of war-time developments as soon as peace is in sight, so that the Report can be issued as soon as possible after the end of the war.

Drafts of Chapter I (introductory), Chapter II (causes of the fall in fertility), and Chapter III (statistical survey of population trends) were completed in the period when the Committee still met. Detailed outlines for Chapter IV (consequences of changes in size and age-composition of the population), Chapter V (consequences of differential fertility) and Chapter VII (principles of a population policy) have been prepared, but the Committee has not discussed them. Many preliminary studies of other subjects were also written, and from these further outlines will be elaborated in due course, beginning with chapters on the provision of skilled services and on family income. After a long delay Mr. Lafitte has begun work on elaborating the outline of Chapter V into a memorandum on the eugenic aspects of family allowances, as was promised to the *Society* a year ago. The memorandum will, of course, express his personal opinions only. He has also used some of the material in the outline of Chapter IV for an article in the January 1941 issue of the *EUGENICS REVIEW*, again stating his personal opinions.

Education Department.—During the period between the date of the last Annual Report and the end of October, Miss Pocock struggled valiantly to carry on the work of this department, but the massed daylight air raids, dislocation of traffic and other causes led to a serious reduction in the number of lectures she was able to give. Quite a number were delivered, however, and since Miss Pocock's departure, Mrs. Grant Duff has addressed five women's organizations. Four further lectures have been promised, and it is hoped that these will lead to more invitations. The *Society's* film, *From Generation to Generation*, has been out on loan five times this year.

Family Planning Association.—Advice on involuntary sterility is available at all the Association's Birth Control Clinics. Most of these, even in the worst-bombed districts, are still open. The Medical Sub-Committee continues to examine the value of present contraceptive methods and to report on them to the medical profession and other inquirers. The Association's work in India is not much hampered by the war and, though progress is inevitably slow, ground is being gained. The Family Planning Association retains its London address for inquirers, but since June 1940 the main work of headquarters has been evacuated to 190 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. The Association is continually used as a centre of information by public and private bodies, doctors, scientists, and members of the public.

Galton Celebration.—Again it was agreed that a dinner would be out of place during the war, and an informal luncheon was held instead at Pinoli's Restaurant on Monday, February 17th, 1941. This was attended by forty-four members and their friends, and was followed by a discussion on "Eugenics in War Time," opened by Lord Horder, who presided.

Members' Meetings.—The following have been held:

April 19th, 1940.—"The War-time Case for Family Allowances," by Mrs. Eva Hubback, M.A.

June 3rd, 1940.—"The Importance of the

Child" (with special reference to the Work of the National Council for Maternity and Child Welfare), by Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.L.

It was decided not to hold further meetings until the situation improved, but, after the success of the Galton luncheon, it was agreed to arrange a series of informal luncheons on the same lines. The first of these was held at Pinoli's Restaurant on March 25th, 1941, when fifty people were present and heard an interesting address by Mr. Kenneth Lindsay, M.P., on "New Slants on British Education."

Finance.—The usual statement of Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet and List of Investments will be found at the end of this Report, with corresponding figures for the previous year. It will be seen that last year there was an excess of expenditure over income of £233 2s. 5d.

The *Society* has received notification of a legacy of £100 from the late Mrs. Alec Tweedie, whose death is recorded elsewhere in this Report.

Library.—Comparatively few books have been added to the library during the year, the total number now being 2,827, an increase of only thirty-one. The *Society* is again indebted to Miss E. Corry for her valuable services as Honorary Librarian, and to Miss Lane, Review Secretary, who has supervised the library during Miss Corry's months of absence.

"*Review.*"—Though it has of necessity been much reduced in size the *REVIEW* has been able to retain its characteristic features and to maintain its circulation. Throughout the year 500 copies of each issue have gone to the American Eugenics Society and 100 copies

each to the Eugenics Societies of Victoria and Canada, though the recently announced disbanding of the Canadian Society means that the *REVIEW* will no longer reach eugenists in that dominion. Particular attention has been paid to the eugenic aspects of war-time measures and policies and population movements both in this country and, so far as data can be obtained, in Europe and the world in general.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the deaths of the following: Dr. Kenneth Aikman, Mrs. Anstruther, Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, Mrs. Leonard Darwin, Mr. T. E. Lloyd, Mr. Frederick Rathbone, Professor J. B. Robertson, Mrs. Stebbing, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Dr. Douglas White, and Sir Arnold Wilson. The Consultative Council has also suffered a loss in the death of Professor F. A. P. Aveling.

Register of Fellows and Members.—An analysis is presented of the *Society's* Register for the period April 1st, 1940, to March 31st, 1941:

		Life	Fellows	Fellows	Members	Total
Total, March 31st,						
1940 ...	71	234	281	586		
Elections, 1940-1		3	16	19		
	71	237	297	605		
<i>Less</i>						
Deceased ...	3	4	3	10		
Resigned ...		14	15	29		
Lapsed ...		8	13	21		
	—	—	—	—		
Total, March 31st,						
1941 ...	68	211	266	545		
Affiliated Societies				4		